

welfare program, whether it be the Freedom to Farm Act or whether it be current policy.

Mr. President, we need action. This President needs to act. He needs to come to the table to work with us on a balanced budget and in so doing to be able to craft and move or resolve the issue that we are currently involved in that has brought real stalemate to the agricultural communities of our country.

That is why I propounded these two very important unanimous consent requests this afternoon, to see if it would not move our President off center and allow flexibility, both for the Senate and for our Secretary, to get on with the business of telling American agriculture what they can expect in the coming crop year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President. Actually the words "safety net" came from President Ronald Reagan who described a series of programs that represented the safety net, an important one of which is Social Security. I do not expect anyone here would make the case that Social Security is welfare or that Ronald Reagan meant that Social Security was welfare. That is a program workers pay into and at some point get some returns when they reach retirement.

So to use the words "safety net," using the term of President Reagan, was to refer to the opportunity to try to provide some help for people who need some help through a series of programs, some of which might be welfare but many of which were not, including Social Security which is not a welfare program and the farm program which was never a welfare program.

EXTENDING THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would propose one additional unanimous-consent request and am constrained, I guess, not to offer the third. I felt that as long as we were offering unanimous consent requests, the most logical-unanimous consent request is to come here and say, well, let us at least now understand that Friday we have a CR that needs extension or we will have a shutdown.

The shutdown, it seems to me, is an example of what we have been through a couple of times, of poking taxpayers in the eye by saying, "You pay for a couple hundred thousand people that will be prevented from coming to work, and we insist you pay for them," and then dangle Federal workers in front of this debate and say, "By the way, you're the pawns we're going to use."

If we have not been cured of Government shutdowns and the chaos that comes by using CR's as some kind of a line in the sand here where everybody else pays but nobody else suffers, if we have not cured ourselves of that apparently there is no cure for what ails us.

My urge is to offer a CR that says, let us extend the CR that expires on Friday at a minimum of 2 weeks, but I shall not do that. I will not do that in deference to the leadership. I think if one were to do this sort of thing, one would want to notify the leadership.

So my urge is to want to do this, and maybe sometime I will, as long as someone else comes out wanting to offer unanimous-consent requests. But I will not do that in deference to the leadership today.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DORGAN. I will offer one additional unanimous-consent request. It does deal specifically with something that I know the Senator from Idaho cares about because he raised it a few minutes ago. He was concerned I did not include it in my legislation. That is some forgiveness of the advanced crops deficiency payments for 1995.

My legislation on page 3, which I introduced earlier today, and is at the desk, provides for the forgiveness of certain advanced deficiency payments for those crop producers who suffered a loss.

The Senator from Idaho raised that. I know he cares about it and I care about it. If we cannot pass the entire bill, let us at least pass that entire provision that both of us care about and both of us think should be passed. The forgiveness of the advanced deficiency payments is critically important to a lot of family farm producers out there. We do not need a large debate about that. Let us go ahead and do this.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a bill to provide for forgiveness of 1995 advance crop deficiency payments, as I described, and that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Is there objection?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have to object this evening. Maybe this is the kind of legislation that we could include in the CR this coming Friday. I think the Senator from North Dakota and I both know well that we are going to have to deal with a continuing resolution come Friday; that we are not going to shut the Government down anymore; that the President does not want to shut the Government down anymore.

At least out of all of this budget discussion that has gone on for the last good number of weeks, both the executive branch and the legislative branch have come to that conclusion, and I agree that that is the proper conclusion.

The Senator brings up an important point, that is why I brought it up, because it was not in his original unanimous consent, and I had hoped that we be thorough in dealing with this issue. I am glad the Senator has brought it up. It is a question of great concern. It is a repayment of nearly \$2 billion of advance deficiency payments.

I hope that we can resolve this issue, but it is not a separate issue to be resolved tonight. I think the Senator has brought it to the floor with just intention, and because he has raised the issue to the level of visibility that he does tonight, I hope that maybe that is something we will consider as we deal with final resolution toward the end of the week of a continuing resolution, but I do object at this time.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I know it is technical, but I did include that in my first unanimous-consent request. It was something I mentioned in connection with three provisions in the UC that I offered. But I observe, this is not a rider that needs a horse. This is a provision that does not need to wait for Friday. It does not need to wait for next July. It does not need to wait for something else that is moving. It can be done any time.

The reason I offer it is, I would like to see an extension of the current farm bill for a year with the provisions I suggested. If that is not possible, I would like to see us decide to tell farmers what is possible. It ought to be possible for us to deal with the forgiveness of advance deficiency payments. It does not, as I said, need something else coming along to jump on. This is not a cargo looking for a train. This is an idea we ought to advance.

I encourage us, if we cannot do it tonight, let us do it tomorrow. If we cannot do it tomorrow, let us do it the next day.

The one thing I suggest to the Senator from Idaho, when we talk about continuing appropriations and shutdowns—I am delighted there will not be any more shutdowns, and I pray there will not be, because I do not think it serves anyone's interest. Nobody wins. The way we are able to avoid that is the way we are able to convince everybody in this Capitol Building on all sides that they cannot use this as leverage any longer; they cannot threaten someone over a CR—"If you don't have this, we won't enact a CR"—and that is what results in a shutdown.

Let me say, I understand the objection. I expected the objection. My hope is that perhaps tomorrow—I do not know if anybody will be doing unanimous-consent requests tomorrow, but if we do, I have a number of good ideas. This is one of them, and I would like this idea to sort of lead the parade here. We should do the things that both of us would agree on, that both of us think are important for our farmers, that both of us believe would represent good policy. If that is the case, let both of us do it together, either now or tomorrow morning.

I guess since there is an objection now, maybe we can talk about it again tomorrow. Again, I understand exactly what has happened. This, one way or another, needs to get resolved.

The Senator from Nebraska was on the floor, the Senator from Iowa, the

Senator from Idaho, my colleague from North Dakota. All of us have said exactly the same thing. We have said it with fingers pointing in different directions, I guess. That is a habit I hope we get over this month and maybe the rest of the year, not talking so much about what happened but what should happen, what must happen, what must we do to make this a better country.

We all described one common goal today, and that is, we ought to provide an answer to rural America. The Senator from Idaho probably has had the same experience I have. I went to a farm show, and I was talking to a lot of farmers. I was talking to a fellow who sells Ford pickup trucks. He was talking to me. He said, "You know, I need to find out from you, when on Earth are you going to pass a farm bill?"

I said, "Why are you so interested in that? Do you have crop acreage out there?"

He said, "Oh, no, I don't have crops. What I have are farm customers. I have farm customers who were going to buy a pickup who now say, 'I am not going to be able to make this purchase until I find out what the circumstances are going to be for the farm bill.'"

You need to understand it is not just farmers. It is agribusiness. It is people who sell vehicles and supplies. Everybody out there is facing the same kind of problems as a result of this uncertainty.

So my hope is that the expression by all of us in the last few hours might result in some common good here. If we can get together and talk about this, we can probably find a key to unlock this and move ahead and give farmers the answer they deserve.

We only do this once every 5 years. It is pretty hard to foul this up. But, in my judgment, a mistake was made when it was decided to piggyback it on something else that was moving along. That is to piggyback it on reconciliation. We have never done that before. I do not think it is the right thing to do.

What is past is past. The question now is: How do we extract from this and decide to do this the right way?

The interesting thing, I say to the Senator from Idaho, is we have two leaders in this Senate who come from farm country. Senator DOLE, of course, is from a big grain-producing State, and Senator DASCHLE has represented farmers many years from the State of South Dakota.

We have two leaders who know a lot about agriculture. Both of them know a great deal about these issues. I know both of them have tried—in fact, Senator DASCHLE is a cosponsor of the legislation I just discussed and introduced today—to provide some answers.

My hope is all of us can get together and start figuring out a way to bridge this gap and solve this problem. I hope perhaps the Senator and I could talk again in the next day or so and see if we can just incrementally address these issues. Maybe the first increment is the advance deficiency payment.

So, with that, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator EXON as a cosponsor to the legislation that I introduced today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, the Senator from North Dakota and I probably agree more than we disagree on agricultural policy, and I think both he and I recognize the importance of our concerns this afternoon and what we have tried to say from the Senate to the leaders of the Senate and to the President.

The President cannot be allowed to only have rhetoric on this issue. He must show action. He has to come forward, and he has not yet come forward with a farm plan.

Clearly, this morning at the White House, with the discussion among our agricultural leaders, our Senate and House leaders and the Secretary, in all fairness but with no criticism, this administration is without a plan as we speak. That simply has to change if we are to work out our differences on farm policy.

Budget reconciliation, Mr. President, over the years has taken a variety of forms, and it takes those forms as the budget requires it to. Those provisions of the farm bill or farm policy that are in budget reconciliation are those that drive budgets—conservation, farm credit, some of those that are not there. We are not through with those. We will ultimately package a farm bill this year, and I think the Senator from North Dakota and I both recognize that for it to be freestanding on this floor, a very large part of it has to be bipartisan, and we will work at every effort to solve that.

The work that we did earlier this year that found its way into budget reconciliation did get a lot of support. It is not to say that it did not get support. The American Farm Bureau supported it, the National Corn Growers Association supported it, the National Grain Trade Council supported it. I noticed the North Dakota Grain Growers Association lent their support to it, the Iowa Cattlemen, the Iowa Corn Growers. Obviously, my colleague mentioned the majority leader. Well, Kansas was right in there offering the support to it from the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and bankers and feed and grain associations and Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association. It is a bill that offers broad-based support to American agriculture, and I think it is important that the Record show that.

There are disagreements, and there are differences. My colleague from North Dakota and I are tremendously concerned about what has happened in discretionary spending over the last good number of years, to see that di-

rect payments to American agricultural producers from 1986 to today has been reduced in real dollars about 60 percent. The problem we have now is trying to balance all of that out.

Ironically enough, when we gained majority here in the U.S. Congress, we knew that to get the kind of budget control we had to have, we could no longer go to the discretionary side, as my colleagues party has gone for one too many year, and we had to go to entitlements. Even though we brought agricultural spending down, there is no question that that happened with policy change. We are gridlocked here today over entitlement battles. If we are still going to get the budget savings and leave entitlements untouched, I am afraid that my colleague from North Dakota and I are going to be locked together in a battle to protect agriculture.

This administration still wants to take much too much out of discretionary spending and free up or allow relatively untouched a variety of the entitlement areas. What we tried to offer was some balance. There is disagreement at this time, and I hope we can arrive at a balanced budget. The President has finally agreed to 7 years and CBO. But there is a lot of difference out there still.

The one thing I think my colleague and I agree on this evening is the immediacy of the situation with American agriculture. We are not going to see another shutdown. Programs are going to be funded. But how long will they be funded, and how far into the next cropping season? The signals we send now and in the next few months are going to be ever so important, as American agriculture begins to farm and puts together its budgets and farm programs, buys the new pickup, if you will, looks at the new combine, puts the budget together for the fertilizer, seed grain, corn, and all of that. That is what it is all about. I hope that by the weekend, possibly, we can have resolved this issue. Maybe it will come with a CR on Friday, maybe it will not. But I certainly hope that all parties involved will engage and get it resolved so that we can send a critical message to agriculture in this country, which they are now asking for.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Senator from Idaho and I have, long ago, worn out our welcome. But I did just want to add a point about the administration. The Senator from Idaho said gingerly that this administration had no farm plan, was not active or engaged in the farm bill debate. I do not want that to pass. We have an Agriculture Secretary, former Congressman Dan Glickman, who comes from Kansas, who was confirmed with unanimous support. He knows agriculture and had served on the House Agriculture Committee. He knows it very well. He is a strong advocate for family

farmers, as is the President. In fact, because I was part of the budget negotiations, Senator EXON and I were involved in many of the negotiations, some at the White House.

I have seen the President's reaction weighing in on the agriculture issues. He very much wants there to be a safety net or a farm program that helps family-size farms in this country. He hired and appointed an Agriculture Secretary who believes that very strongly. I do not want the moment to go and let someone listening say, "Well, gee, they said nobody down at the White House cares." Secretary Glickman, I think, is a terrific Secretary of Agriculture, selected by this President, representing this President, to try to get a better farm program. Hopefully, all of us can work together. There will be no solution to the problem without Secretary Glickman and President Clinton's active involvement. The meeting this morning, I think, was called by Secretary Glickman. They are active, engaged, and involved, and they want to solve this problem.

I hope, along with the Senator from Idaho, that by the end of this week we will have advanced by this discussion today the interest of providing some answers to family farmers in this country, but especially providing the right answers for the long-term.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TWO HEROES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk just briefly about two Americans I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues—two heroes of mine.

I have never met these men. I talked to one of them on the phone the other day, a fellow named Robert Naegele. Mr. Naegele started a company called Rollerblade, which some of you may know about. It is the largest in-line skate company in America. I learned about Mr. Naegele and his company in an article I read in the Minneapolis Star Tribune when I was travelling through Minneapolis the other day by plane.

Robert Naegele sold his company 2 months ago. He apparently made an enormous amount of money. He started the company from scratch, ran it, turned it into a \$250 million business and then sold it recently. Then, about a week before Christmas, 280 employees of this company began to get letters in the mail from Mr. Naegele and his wife, Ellis. It turns out that he decided to

give the people who had worked for his company—the people who worked in the factories and made the skates and made him a very wealthy man—a Christmas bonus equal to \$160 a month for every month these folks had worked for the company.

For some of them who had been there the entire 10 years he owned the company, it meant more than \$25,000. But he wasn't done. He and his wife had prepaid the income taxes on the bonuses so when these folks opened up their check, totally unexpected, from someone who no longer owned the company, they got a check that was tax free.

What this man was saying to them was: You mattered. You people who worked in the plant and factories and helped make this product, you are the ones who made me successful. You made me some money, and I want to share it with you. What a remarkable story. What a hero!

This guy is out of step with the CEOs in our country who now say the way to the future is to downsize, lay off and cut the ground out from under the feet of people who have worked for a company for 20 years. Mr. Naegele, on the other hand, says to his workers, who are weeping with joy about his unexpected benevolence: "You matter to me. You made a difference. You made this company successful, and I want to share it with you."

What a remarkable man! It seems to me if more CEOs in this country would understand what Mr. Naegele understands, this country would be a better place. Our companies could be better able to compete. You would have more loyalty and more job security for people who have spent 10 and 20 years investing their time in a company.

The day after I read the article about Mr. Naegele, I read a similar one. It was about a fellow whose company began to burn down on December 11 in a small town in Massachusetts. The man's name was Aaron Feuerstein. He was about to go to his 70th birthday party—a surprise party that was being thrown for him—when he learned that a boiler had exploded at his textile mill setting off a fire. It injured 27 people and destroyed three of the factory's century-old buildings. His plant employs 2,400 people in an economically depressed area.

The people who watched the mill burn felt that they were going to lose their jobs and lose their futures. When Feuerstein arrived to assess the damage to a business his grandfather had started 90 years ago, he kept himself from crying by thinking back to the passage from King Lear in which Lear promises not to weep even though his heart would "break into a hundred thousand flaws." Mr. Feuerstein said, "I was telling myself I have to be creative." And 3 days after the fire, he had a plan.

According to the Time magazine article:

On the night of Dec. 14, more than 1,000 employees gathered in the gym of Central

Catholic High School to learn the fate of their jobs and of the cities of Methuen and Lawrence. Feuerstein entered the gym from the back, and as he shook the snow off his coat, the murmurs turned to cheers. The factory owner, who had already given out \$275 Christmas bonuses, and pledged to rebuild, walked to the podium. "I will get right to my announcement," he said. "For the next 30 days—and it might be more—all our employees will be paid their full salaries. But over and above the money, the most important thing Malden Mills can do for our workers is to get you back to work. By Jan. 2, we will restart operations, and within 90 days we will be fully operational."

* * * * *

True to his word, Feuerstein has continued to pay his employees in full, at a cost of some \$1.5 million a week and at an average of \$12.50 an hour—already one of the highest textile rates in the world. And even better than his word, Malden Mills was up and running last week at 80% of its Polartec capacity, thanks to round-the-clock salvage work and the purchase of 15 new machines. "I haven't really done anything," says Feuerstein. "I don't deserve credit. Corporate America has made it so that when you behave the way I did, it's abnormal."

I just want to say again that I think Robert Naegele and Aaron Feuerstein are heroes. I think they both recognize what a lot of people in this country have forgotten. A company is its workers. Yes, it is its investors, it is its innovators, it is its scientists, and it is also its workers. Workers matter, and these heroes have done what more American business leaders should do. Too many American businesses now say to those workers, "You are like a wrench. We use you, and we get rid of you when we choose to."

What Mr. Naegele and Mr. Feuerstein are saying is that workers are their business. The workers determined whether their businesses were successful. And both of them have committed themselves to their workers. And I say to Mr. Naegele and Mr. Feuerstein that they are American heroes to me, and I wish there were more employers like them in this country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the two articles I mentioned be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune]

IT WAS A SURPRISINGLY GREEN CHRISTMAS
FOR ROLLERBLADE EMPLOYEES

(By Dee DePass)

Two weeks ago Rollerblade employee Ann Reader, six months pregnant with her third child, called her husband, Tim, from work sobbing. He immediately thought the worst, she said.

But it was good news for Reader and all of Rollerblade's 280 employees. Former Rollerblade co-owner Robert Naegele and his wife, Ellis, played Santa over the holidays, giving each of Rollerblade's employees thousands of dollars in tax-free money, figured at about \$160 for each month of service with the company. Sources familiar with the giveaway estimated the combined gifts to be \$1.5 million.

Reader, team programs manager, has worked there for more than 6 years—making